

**REMARKS**

The Examiner has rejected the claims as being unpatentable over Charpentier et al.

Charpentier et al. shows a hearing aid having an IC 100 that processes an electrical signal and outputs it to a separate amplifier 72 that drives a speaker 76. The IC 100 includes circuitry 74 to vary a load resistance in series with the speaker.

The present invention provides a module that may be used with any one of a plurality of devices such as the IC100 where each device has different electrical characteristics (see, for example, original claim 6).

In the case of hearing devices, this allows the same module to be used with different configurations of the IC100 or with even totally different upstream electrical signal output devices.

Charpentier et al. teaches that the IC100 may be adjusted to provide the desired performance of the speaker 76. The present invention recognizes that the electrical/mechanical converter module itself may be adjustable to operate with any one of many different upstream devices.

Charpentier et al. provides no teaching nor motivation to make the electrical/mechanical converter module itself adjustable. It is respectfully submitted that the claims are patentable over Charpentier et al.

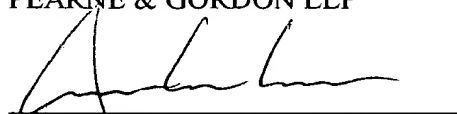
In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that entry of this amendment will place the application in condition for allowance, or in the alternative, will place the claims in better condition for appeal. Please provide notification of same.

If there are any fees resulting from this communication which are not covered by an enclosed check, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 33109.

Respectfully submitted,

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